

The Faith of the Army Reviving.

Or, some fresh Buddings of the Armies lust Engagements at *New market* and *Triple Heath*, 1647. In the behalf of the Common-wealth.

Presented in a Petition to the people assembled in Parliament, upon the 26, of *Feb.* 1648. Together with a Letter to his Excellency, and his Council of Officers assembled at *Whitehall*, upon the first of *March*, 1648. by

Simon Grant, Tho. Watson, Rob. VVard, George Iales, William Saw, Iohn Bonger, & Richard Rumball.

Members of five Regiments of Horse, viz. the Generalls Col. Whalyes, Col. Riches, Col. Scroops, and Col. Reynolds. For which five of them are committed close prisoners in the Custody of the Marshall Generall, now in *Whitehall*, to be tryed for their lives by a Council of Warre. Also their Letter to their Friends.

To his Excellency *Tho. Lord Fairfax*, and his Counsell of Officers.

May it please your Excellency, and your Council of Officers.

WE have lately made our humble addresse unto the peoples Representors in Parliament, concerning some reliefe to our selves and the Common wealth, by way of Petition, the meanest and lowest degree of an English mans Freedom that we know of, and yet the same (to our astonishment!) hath much distasted and imbittered divers of our Superiour Officers (in this Council convening) against us as we perceive, and that even unto death.

We therefore being willing to avoid all occasion of offence and division, and to clear our selves from all imputations thereof, that in Justice and Reason may be conceived against us, desire, that you would be pleased to consider, that we are English Soldiers, engaged for the Freedoms of *England*, and not our landish mercenaries, to butcher the people for pay, to serve the pernicious ends of ambition and will in any person under Heaven. That we doe not imagine our selves absolyed from the solema Engagement at *New market Heath*, but to be still obliged before God and the whole world, to pursue the

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just ends of the same, and you may remember your many promises and Declarations to the people upon that account, which like the blood of *Abel* cry for justice upon the perfidious intriguers and perversers thereof in this Army. You may further remember, that it hath been a principle by you asserted and avowed, that our being Soldiers, hath not deprived us of our Rights as Commons, and to Petition the people in Parliament, we doe account in the number of our Birth rights; and you may remember that in the time of the domination of *Stapleton & Hollis*, you complained against their then endeavor to suppress the liberty of the Soldiers to petition, as an insufferable infringement of the right of the Army and people, and we hope you did not then condemn it in them, to iustifie it in your selves, when the power was theirs: it was then condemned, but now it is yours, how comes it to be iustified? In this point we expected your encouragement, and not to have Mannacles and fetters laid upon it, it is not the bare name or shadow of petitioning will satisfie us, while we are guild of the essence it self, it is a perfect freedom therein we desire not, therein to be subiected under the Gradual Negative voyces of a Captain, a Collonel, your Excellency, or this Council, to passe the tell from one Negative voice to another for its approvement, we account as the most vexatious Laborinth of thralldom that in this point can be devised, worse then all the opposition and infringements of *Stapleton and Hollis*; we had rather that in plain termes you would deny us our right of petitioning, and pronounce and proclaim us absolute Slaves and Vassels to our Officers, while we are secretly robd of the right it self: God hath in some measure opened our eyes that we can see and perceive, and we desire plain dealing, and not to be met half way with smooth expedients and mediums, facing both wayes, with specious and faire pretences, to overtake our sudden apprehensions, and unawares scale upon us, and so be defeated, as too often we have been, to the woe and misery of the people, and of us, but the burnt child shuns the fire.

Further we desire you to consider, that the strength, the honour and being of the Officer, yea, and of this Council under God, doth consist in the Armie of the Soldier. Is it not the Soldier that endureth the heat and burden of the day, and performeth that worke whereof the Officers beareth the glory, and name for what is, or what can the Officer doe without the Solder? If nothing, why are they not ashamed to deny us our right to petition. We



We have long waited in silence, even while we could perceive any hopes of any real redresse from them. But now finding the Military power in an absolute usurpation of the Civill Jurisdiction, in the place of the Magistrate executing that Authority, by which the Sword of the Magistrate, and the Sword of war is inroached into the self same hands under one Military head, which we disclaim and abhorre, as not having any hand or assent therein at all. And we find a strange and unexperienced constitution of a Councel of State, such as neither we or our fore fathers were ever acquainted with, intrusted with little lesse then an unlimited power, and with the whole force both of Sea and Land, into which is confined the most pernicious interest of our rotten State. Lords, Lawyers, Star Chamber Judges, and dissenters from the proceedings against the King. And which hath already swallowed up half our Parliament, and we feare to be an expedient to cut off our Parliaments forever for if this Councel of State survive the Parliaments, how shall we obtain a new Representative, if the Parliament sit not till a new one be ready to take their places, farewell Parliaments, farewell Freedoms.

Further we find, the just and legal way of tryall by twelve men of the neighbourhood in criminall cases, utterly subverted, in this new constitution of a High Court, a President for ought we know, to frame all the Courts of *England* by, and to which our selves may be as well subiected as our enemies. And considering, that our oppression is removed, not one vexation in the Law abated, or one punctillio of freedom restored, or any fair hopes at all appearing, but oppression heaped upon the back of oppression, double cruelty upon cruelty, we therefore from those many considerations, betooke our selves as English men to make our addresse unto the Parliament, as the proper refuge and authority of the people for our and their redresse, in which by birth we challenge a right, as also by the price and purchase of our hazzard and blood; and our Civill Rights we cannot yeeld up, we shall not rather yeeld up our lives. And thus after this weak measure of our understandings, we judge we have given a rational and full account of the occasion and reason of our Petitioning, and we hope satisfactory to your Excellency and this Councel, humbly praying that you will make a charitable and fair construction thereon. And we further desire, that you will take speciall notice of the serious apprehensions of the people in behalf of the Common

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wealth, presented to the House by Lievt. Col. John Lilburn, and di-
vers other Citizens of London, and the Burrough of Southwarke, Feb.
26. now published in print. To the which with due thankfulness to
those our faithful friends the promoters and presenters thereof, we
doe freely and cheerfully concur, to stand or fall in the iust prosecuti-
on thereof as the most absolute medium to our peace and freedom
that hath been produced, and we hope it will produce an happy
effect upon this Council, to prevent the otherwise inavoydable dis-
solation and division that will ensue upon us all, which to prevent,
shall be the faithfull endeavours of. Sir,

Your Excellencies most humble
Servants and Soldiers.

To the Supream entrusted Authority of
this Nation, the Commons assembled in
Parliament.

The Humble Petition of Divers Well-affected Officers and Souldiers,
of the Army under the Command of his Excellency THOMAS
Lord FAIRFAX.

Sheweth,

That we having seriously weighed and considered the late
Votes of this House, in which the people are declared to be
the Supreme power, and from whom all iust authority is
derived: The consideration of which hath emboldned us
to make known and discover our own, and the Nation grievances,
which cry aloud for justice to be speedily and impartially executed:
without which we cannot chuse but look upon our selves, as a dying
and ruinated people: All which we apprehend, is coming upon us
like a Deluge, unless God be pleased to appear for us in raising up of
your Honors to stand for us, in the answering of these our just desires.
This honorable House may be pleased to take notice what difficulty,
carefulness, and hardship, we have for these seven years gone through, in
the prosecution of those just ends for which you have declared: And
we cannot but thankfully acknowledge the actions of this honora-
ble House, in bringing Capital Enemies to Justice, to be one step in
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the way to freedom. But yet upon mature consideration, we do conceive that these actions do administer but little comfort to this distressed Nation, except the ground of tyranny be taken away, as well as the Instruments. Therefore we do humbly desire that this honorable House would be pleased to take into their serious considerations these severall particulars ensuing.

1. Forasmuch as the ground and end of all our actions and engagements have been clearly to free our selves and our posterities from all those oppressions which we formerly and at present groane under, both by reason of the imperfection of the present Law, and also the corrupt Administrators thereof, which we hopefully expected (in the taking away of the Kings head would have been removed: But to our great grief, we find that this House intends to continue the same still in force, with all the corruptions therein contained, which to us presageth nothing but a continued slavery.

That therefore this Honourable House would be pleased speedily to think of some way to make and establish such wholesome Laws (in our Native Language) as may preserve the Interest and Liberties of this Common wealth.

2. That all Tythes may be for ever speedily abolished; and no forced maintenance come in the place thereof.

3. That no punishment be inflicted upon any person for the exercise of his Conscience in matters of Religion; it being destructive to the freedom of the Common wealth. And that all such as are now in custody for such matters; may forthwith be set at liberty, and reparation given them for their unjust imprisonment.

4. That all Committee men, Excise men, and all other persons whatsoever, that have had to deale in the publike Treasury of the nation, may speedily be called to an account, for all monies received by them; and for the time to come, the intollerable burden of Excise may be wholly taken away from this Common-wealth.

5. That all persons, of what Condition or Quality soever, may have a just and equall Administration of Law, according to the nature of their Actions.

6. That a speedy course be taken for the enlargement of all persons that are imprisoned for debt, and have not wherewithall to satisfy their Creditors. And a course also taken, for the making such persons pay their debts (being able) that they may not shelter themselves in prison,

son, on purpose to defraud their Creditors; by which means, many honest people are brought to ruin.

7. That all persons whatsoever, that are now in prison for pretended words or forgeries, may be brought to a speedy tryal: And those whose innocency shall appear, reparation may be given them for their false imprisonment.

8. That speedy provision may be made for the continuall supply of the necessities of the Poor of this Nation; whose miseries cry aloud in our ears for redresse.

9. That constant pay may be provided to supply the necessities of the Army, according the establishment now at *London*, that the Souldiery may be enabled to discharge their Quarters; and for the future, prevent that which hath been so much complained of (*viz.*) Free quarter.

10. That all the Arrears of the Army, and the rest of the Souldiery of the Nation, (who have bin in actuall service for the Parliament, and continued faithfull therein) may be audited; and a course taken for the speedy payment of them out of the revenues of the Crown, Deans, and Chapters Lands.

11. That whereas severall Souldiers of the Army by their tedious and hard service last Summer, & since they came to *London*, have lost and spoyled many of their horses, and by reason of the smallness of their pay, are not able to furnish themselves with any more: Wee therefore desire course may be taken for a speedy supply of our wants that we may be enabled to perform that service that is expected from us.

12. That wheras we with many other of the Common wealth have been abused with Clipt monie, therefore we desire some course may be taken for the speedy prevention thereof.

13. That the Articles of War now may be renewed and mitigated, as being too severe and tyranous for any Army of freeborn Englishmen, and that Marshall Law may not be so frequently exercised in such a cruel manner.

14. That the Souldiers may not be put upon the execution of Civill Orders, or Ordinances, as seiseing upon unlicensed books, or printing presses, or in distraining for monies or the like; untill (in those cases) the Civil Authority hath been forcibly resisted; that the people may have no cause to complain (as they do) of our intrenchment upon their liberties.

15. That

ty. That there may be some certain provision made for supply of the matted Souldiers, widowes, and Orphants, that have lost their husbands in the late service of the Parliament and people.

These things being iust, and our Native Rights, we desire they may be speedily taken into your consideration; and without delay granted to us: That so we may not conclude our selves the worst of Slaves, and be put upon some other way for our Redemption.

The Letter thus followeth:

Deare Friends, Kind Salutes, &c.

WE finding the Generall all alone, delivered the Letter to him, who read it over by himselfe and cald us all before him, and demanded of us, why we did not acquaint our officers with it, we answered, we found by experience, that when we did, they did us little or no good at all, in things which were for the good of the Commonwealth, which made us to make our condition knowne to your Excellency; But immediately the Officers coming about him, Col. Disborough began to abraid one of us which had formerly roed in his Troope with things that were not true; and then another replied, that for ought they knew, it was a plot to breake the Army, and did desire that we may be enquired after, to know what kind of men we were, deeming us to be dishonest men, telling whymzies of our own, without the consent of the Army, and putting it up in their names, then the Councell being set, they went all in and read the Letter before them three times: the whole Councell, or the greatest part admiring how we could presume to speake or write so proudly to such a Councell, using such expressions as charged the Councell with grosse lyes, in that we affirmed that the Officers were Conveined against us, which when we were cald in, they first pitcht upon that, we made answer that it was sent in Print, so and if we did faile a day or two, we hope they would not be upon the catch with us: they asked whether we delivered this as our own sence, or the sence of the Army, we told them as our own sence, and we did owe it as our own act; They were very inquisitive to know who composed it, and who wrote it, that they might have sent for the Originall Coppie, but we would not tell them, they askt more questions, but we desired they would not question us upon Interrogatories, whereat they laughed very much, some other things passed between us, but it being late they put us forth for the present, and Cap Bray because he apprehended the things to drive at leave for to Petition, but the Generall and some officers with drawing.

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drawing, the Marshall caused us to be put into prison in Capt. Thompsons House, where we be full of joy, that we are counted worthy to suffer for, desiring nothing but our just Rights.

So deare Friends we leave you, and remaine your Servants.

Simon Grant. Tho. Watson. George Ialis.

William Saw. Robert Ward.

Postscript

Gentlemen Souldiers and freemen of England, you may behold in us at this time, not only your selves and the Nation, deprived of the fruits of our blood and hardship, but more enslaved then any former Generations can produce, but we hope we have not run so many hazards, in fighting for our Libertys (and God having for that end) made us victorious, now at last to be deprived of the fruit of al our adventures, by those that have been made great by our fidelity, but if you suffer us to perish, we have discharged our Conscience, and our strength is in the fulnesse of the Lord.

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